

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-21 and add new Claims 22-43:

--22. A coated nickel hydroxide having a cobalt(II) hydroxide coating that is stable to oxidation, wherein the nickel hydroxide has a pastel green color that does not change during storage in the atmosphere for 4 weeks.

23. A coated nickel hydroxide having a cobalt hydroxide coating that is stable to oxidation, wherein the nickel hydroxide has a content of cobalt in the 3-valent oxidation level increasing by less than 0.5%, based on the total cobalt content, after storage in air for at least 4 weeks.

24. A coated nickel hydroxide having a cobalt hydroxide coating, wherein the nickel hydroxide is stable to oxidation, and wherein the coating has 1 to 200 mmol of one or more anions of weak inorganic oxygen acids per mol of cobalt(II) hydroxide.

25. The nickel hydroxide according to Claim 24, wherein the anion is CO_3 .

26. The nickel hydroxide according to Claim 22, wherein the nickel hydroxide is in the form of powder and wherein the nickel hydroxide has an average particle size (D50 value, measured by the Mastersizer method) of 0.5 to 500 μm .

27. The nickel hydroxide according to Claim 22, wherein the nickel hydroxide is a coating on a substrate.

28. The nickel hydroxide according to Claim 22, wherein the nickel hydroxide comprises an amount of 0.2 to 25 wt.% in total of a doping element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Sc, Y, La, lanthanoids, Ti, Zr, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Fe, Co, Cu, Zn, Cd, B, Al, Ga, In, Si, P, As, Sb and Bi, and combinations thereof.

29. The nickel hydroxide according to Claim 22, wherein the nickel hydroxide has water molecules at interstitial sites in an amount of up to 10 wt.%.

30. A process for preparing a coated nickel hydroxide having a cobalt(II) hydroxide coating that is stable to oxidation, wherein the coated nickel hydroxide has a pastel green color that does not change during storage in the atmosphere for 4 weeks,

the process comprising treating (i) optionally doped coated nickel hydroxide provided with a cobalt hydroxide coating with (ii) a weak inorganic oxygen acid selected from the group consisting of aluminate, borate, carbonate, chromate, manganate, molybdate, niobate, phosphate, silicate, tantalate, vanadate, tungstate, oxalate, alkali metal salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.

31. The process according to Claim 30, wherein the treating is carried out in an aqueous solution of alkali metal carbonate, an aqueous solution of alkali metal bicarbonate, or mixtures thereof.

32. The process according to Claim 30, wherein the process further comprises a stabilizing treatment that is carried out in an original precipitation suspension of the coating process or after prior removal of mother liquor of the original precipitation suspension and subsequent resuspending in water.

33. The process according to Claim 32, wherein the stabilizing treatment is carried out by treating an unwashed or washed filter cake directly after filtration of the mother liquor of the original precipitation suspension of the process.

34. The process according to Claim 32, wherein the stabilizing treatment is carried out by carbonation of the surface of the coated nickel hydroxide coated with cobalt(II) hydroxide.

35. The process according to Claim 34, wherein the carbonation is carried out by addition of alkali metal carbonate solutions, alkali metal bicarbonate solutions, or mixtures thereof, at concentrations of 0.01 mol/l up to the solubility maximum.

36. The process according to Claim 35, wherein the amount of alkali metal carbonate solution, alkali metal bicarbonate solution, or mixtures thereof is 0.1-10 times the weight, based on the solids content of the suspension comprising the nickel hydroxide coated with cobalt(II) hydroxide.

37. The process according to Claim 34, wherein the carbonation is carried out by addition of carbon dioxide.

38. The process according to Claim 32, wherein the stabilizing treatment is carried out at a temperature of 0-100°C.